

CONNECT WITH THE 110TH ONLINE! [WWW.110AW.ANG.AF.MIL](http://WWW.110AW.ANG.AF.MIL)

### ASK THE COMMANDER **ELECTRONIC SUGGESTION BOX**

One person cannot do it alone, so I have established an Electronic Suggestion Box to get ideas directly from you that will help our wing grow. *How do I use the Electronic Suggestion Box?* Simply go to the Wings Share-Point site: <https://eis.ang.af.mil/org/110AW>. On the 110 AW page go to "Ask the Commander" under the Discussions section. Click [Add a discussion](#). Add a subject. Add your suggestion in the Body. *Is this Anonymous?* Yes, no name is tied to the suggestions unless you put your name in the body. The only people that can see the suggestions are the person submitting the suggestion and the Wing Commander. *(For an electronic copy pdf to walk you through go online under UTA updates.)*

## COMMANDER

110TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER  
By Colonel Ronald W. Wilson

Members of the 110th, welcome to July Drill.

On 12 July, 2013, men and women of the 110th gathered along the flight line to somberly turn a page in Battle Creek's history first written in 1946; together offering our final farewell to the last C-21 as it lifted off the runway bound for a new future. It was a departure that marked the first time in 67 years that our mission is not one involving the operation of a manned aircraft—our ramp now just the backdrop of storied F-86 Sabres, RB-57 Canberras and our beloved A-10 Warthogs. But this farewell also signals the birth of a new mission that is going to firmly fix this Wing to the forefront of America's military defensive shield. For this, I am utterly thrilled. Still, as I watched the tail of that C-21 meld with the distant blue sky, I caught myself reflecting on the countless number of airmen who have contributed to a stellar record of aerial accomplishment several decades long. To call our history outstanding would be a colossal understatement. I am proud to say that we have always had the best kept airplanes across the board; a reputation that should instill a sense of pride in all who have contributed. And I want to personally thank each member of the Maintenance Group who gave every ounce of energy and the breadth of their many talents to ensure the safe departure and return of our many aircraft over the years. I would encourage you to take some time this weekend to do the same. We've had a great run, no doubt about it—but now it's our time to sprint toward the future!

On 13 July, after the C-21 was gone and reality began to set in,

I came to a second realization—this is what change feels like. Change is different for everyone. I can appreciate this. The uncertainty may be uncomfortable, exciting, surreal, or even a bit frightening, but the reality is that things are always changing whether we like it or not. It does absolutely no good to sit back and wish things could be like they were before. General Eric Shinseki, the 34th Chief of Staff of the Army, once said, "If you don't like change, you are going to like irrelevance even less." This has never been truer for the 110th than it is right now. With sequestration and budget cuts topping the headlines, to remain relevant and subsequently valuable we must ensure that we do not fall into the trap of resting on our history, but guarantee our place at the front of the line in tomorrow's fighting force. No one will question the fact that we have done great things; achievements that will forever be persevered through magnificent stories and pictures hung on the walls. But come October, as we shed the distinction of Airlift Wing and become the 110th Attack Wing, it is imperative that we lean forward, adapt, and excel if we are to hold our place in the future.

As you know, the RPA's are a national asset mission that will put the 110th right back in the business of breaking things and killing bad guys; something we have proven to be exceptionally good at. But this is also a new technological venture that is sure to bring as many challenges as it will successes. In preparation, we have been sending our members to other RPA units to observe the differences we can expect throughout this transition, and I can tell you that they have come back with their eyes wide open. I also travelled down to the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) a few weeks ago to watch the RPA's in action and was absolutely blown away by the sophistication of this very specialized mission. For us to succeed, we must give 110% all of the time starting right now. When the AOG was preparing to stand up, their goal was to learn everything they could and put the best people in the best spots in order to push their

way to the front of the line, which they did, and did to the tune of national recognition. I see the AOG conversion as a model of how I envision the stand up of RPA's. The reality is that if we don't lean forward on this mission we run the risk of losing it all together. Battle Creek is not the only Wing in a position of transition during uncertain times, so our future is by no means guaranteed. It's time to roll up our sleeves, set our sights beyond the bar, and give everything we've got to fly higher than the rest. If this is not something you are willing to do, I ask that you take some time to think long and hard about your role in our future. It's go time and we need ALL hands on deck.

And of course, I would be remiss if I did not mention our summer trip to Alpena, which is right around the corner, literally. Over the next few days we will be heading up north to complete our required trainings. But this trip is not just about sitting through pre-packaged briefing and checking boxes. The goal is to use this time to get to know each other better, enhance camaraderie, and walk away more skilled and prepared to move forward. The schedule looks great and it should be a lot of fun. For those travelling to Alpena, leaving for vacations with your families, or just out taking advantage of the great summer weather, be safe and enjoy.

Have a great drill.

## BATTLE CREEK BIDS FAREWELL TO C-21

110TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Airman 1st Class Justin Andras

June 15, 2013 members of the 110th Airlift Wing completed a "Fini Flight" of its C-21J Learjet, ending a 60-plus year flying era in Battle Creek. The wing has flown the C-21 since 2008. During flight the plane made several passes by the base and completed a few sharp banks and turns before descending to the runway where it was ceremoniously greeted on both sides by fire trucks that doused the plane with water-filled hoses.

"It was a very emotional day for everyone here since Battle Creek has such a long flying history," said 1st Lt. Kenzi Pridgeon, a pilot for the 110th Airlift Wing. "I feel very proud of what this base has accomplished, and I'm proud that I had the chance to be a pilot here and contribute to the mission."

The base's long and storied career flying aircraft can be traced back to 1946 when it was assigned the P-51 Mustang followed by the F-86F Sabre Jet, F-89A Scorpion, RB-57A Canberra, O-2A Skymaster, OA-37B Dragonfly, and A-10 Thunderbolt.

"This was a bitter sweet moment for us," said Col. Ronald W. Wilson, commander of the 110th Airlift Wing, who piloted the ceremonial flight.

He likened this flight to a similar ceremony held for the A-10. In 2009, the wing retired its 17-year mission with the A-10 and converted from a Fighter Wing to an Airlift Wing. It is important for us to turn the page in our history and move on to the next step, said Wilson. This marks the beginning of a new era, a new way, and a new vision.

The wing will now focus on newer technology being used across the entire Air Force through its new Remotely Piloted Aircraft mission using the MQ-9 Reaper. The MQ-9 allows the military to conduct surveillance, reconnaissance, and irregular warfare operations in support of combat objectives without risking the lives of military pilots.

"We will be the corner piece of technology for the state of Michigan and for the country," said Wilson.

We are all looking forward to the new mission which will bring cutting-edge technology to the base and allow us to be on the front lines helping troops overseas, said Pridgeon.

Although the MQ-9 aircraft will be controlled from the base but not housed here, efforts are moving forward to bring them onsite.

"There is currently talk to get the launch and recovery element which will allow Battle Creek to gain four aircraft," said Wilson. "This will ensure we keep the runway, hangars, and facilities open and operational."

This proposed action has not been guaranteed since it will still need to pass through budget legislation but the wing is optimistic on the opportunity.

Through the new RPA mission, the wing's 217th Air Operations Group mission supporting the

17th Air Force, and new efforts to gain a cyber-mission, Battle Creek will remain relevant and continue working hard as a successful component of the Air National Guard.

"We have laid the groundwork for the long-term future at Battle Creek," said Wilson. "We will continue to move forward and lead the way because that is what we do." ■

## 4TH OF JULY ANNUAL PARADE



110th Airlift Wing Base Honor Guard march in Colon, MI's annual 4th of July Parade on Thursday, July 4, 2013. Left to Right, Master Sgt. Carmen LaGuardia, Capt. Craig Warn, Staff Sgt. Matthew Ford, Staff Sgt. Brian Burdett, and Tech. Sgt. Ezekiel Wieland. (Photo by Laura Kurella, Sturgis Journal/Released)

## CORPORATE CUP 2013

YMCA Corporate Cup Brochure [Link](#)

Corporate Cup on [Sharepoint](#): [Wing Staff](#); [Corporate Cup Link](#)

This site contains keynotes, calendar of events, even descriptions, and an attached spreadsheet for each event for volunteers to sign-up. 110th/217th Corporate Cup POC, Capt. Daniel Fawcett, [daniel.fawcett@ang.af.mil](mailto:daniel.fawcett@ang.af.mil), DSN: 312-580-3928



## ROAD HAWG DUSK RUN 5K RUN/WALK

21 SEPTEMBER 2013 @ 2000

COME RUN OR WALK FOR FUN

Help raise money for the 110th Family Support program and have some fun with fellow members and their families of the 110th Airlift Wing.

Entry Fee: \$20 (*credit/debit cards, cash or check*) You will receive a T-Shirt, Hotdog, Chips and a Soda. Sign up on the 110 AW SharePoint site or contact Mike Wilson @ ext 3441

There are no prizes, no placement, just bragging rights and lots of fun

Race will start in front of the All Ranks Club at 2000 hours.

Signup deadline is 1300 the day of the race and entry must be paid in full by race time. Check-in and shirt pickup will be between 1800-1930. Late registration will be offered but there is not guarantee on shirt availability, so please pre-register.

Proceeds from the Road Hawg races support the 110th Family Support program. In the past, we have been able to donate \$1000 annually but we want to provide more this year and with your help, we can reach our goal.

## UTA CHILDCARE

Attention 110 AW military members:

Need childcare during UTA? 6 Slots available for childcare on Saturday & Sunday of UTA 0600-1800.

Requirements: Must be attending UTA; Officer or Enlisted children can participate.

Children's age must be between 6 weeks-12 years.

Child must be immunized according to American Academy of Pediatrics.

Currently, completely free. Call MSgt Tammy Zerafa with questions. 269-969-3565

## GOVERNORS 20

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S COMBAT RIFLE AND PISTOL COMPETITION 2013

The Adjutant General's SSG Duane Dreasky Combat Rifle Competition and SGT Craig Frank Pistol Competition is designed to increase Army and Air National Guard combat marksmanship trainers. Competitive combat matches enable competitors to concentrate solely on combative marksmanship application under match conditions.

DATES: Rifle Competition-07 September 2013, Pistol Competition-08 September 2013

LOCATION: Rifle-Range 11, Range 10, Range 9A, CGJMTC,  
Pistol-Range 2, Range 9A, CGJMTC

This match is open to all Michigan Army and Air National Guard members in good Standing.

Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. If range capacity or support logistics are exceeded, earliest entries will receive priority. Participants will be limited to the first 100 entries. See entry form, enclosure 6 (online), must be completed and returned by 1 September 2013. Walk-on registration is acceptable but not encouraged. Unit teams must be declared prior to competition commencement and will consist of four (4) shooters. Team declaration forms will be available at the match.

More Information is posted online [WWW.110AW.ANG.AF.MIL](http://WWW.110AW.ANG.AF.MIL) under UTA updates.

## MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer - Calhoun County is an inspiring, noncompetitive, family friendly 5K walk that honors breast cancer survivors, raises awareness about the disease, and helps to save lives. The American Cancer Society uses the dollars raised through MSABC to fund cutting-edge research leading to the discovery of lifesaving treatments; advocate for all women to have access to mammograms and treatments regardless of income; and to provide free programs and services that improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families.

Funds raised at MSABC enable the American Cancer Society to impact the lives of those touched by cancer within the community through programs like Road to Recovery, which provides free transportation to and from treatment for cancer patients; Reach to Recovery, a program that pairs breast cancer patients with trained survivors to offer support and advice; clinical trials matching service; and access to life-saving information at any hour day or night.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer- Calhoun County will be taking place at C.O. Brown Stadium at Bailey Park in Battle Creek, Michigan on October 26th at 10 am.

To sign up for Calhoun County's event, or to find an event in your area, please visit our website [MakingStridesWalk.Org](http://MakingStridesWalk.Org); search by zip code, Calhoun County will be found by searching 49015. Or to find out more regarding Calhoun County's event, please call 269.349.8719 and ask to speak with our Community Representative Katie Nelson.

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## LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

110TH AIRLIFT WING COMPTROLLER FLIGHT

Senior Master Sgt. Broc Richardson

The National Guard is unique entity amongst the U.S. Armed Forces because it proudly gets to serve its "community," state, and nation. While serving, relationships are created within the community and that is especially true of the 110th.

Most recently, members of the 110th spent time with children of the Boys and Girls Club in Battle Creek. On June 17th, both the 110th Security Forces Squadron and Fire Department partnered to spend time with approximately 60 children, giving them the opportunity to explore our fire truck and police cruiser, play with training gear and learn about our mission and local presence. Prior to this event, most children had no idea that an Air National Guard base was right down the street. Many children in the Boys and Girls Club had a positive interaction with law enforcement and members in uniform making a huge and lasting influence.

Here is the sales pitch - This event was predominantly made possible by the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce. Each year the Chamber hosts a 12 month Leadership Challenge. The Leadership Challenge seeks to provide leadership development to area business and nonprofit professionals. Historically, the 110th has two participants each year. Each year the Leadership Challenge class decides on a collaborative project, and the 2013 class has chosen to focus on summer programming for youth. The emphasis is on opportunities for young people who may not have the resources to attend summer camps or programs, particularly those that require travel.

The "Summer Club Challenge" will provide fun and educational programs to youth who attend the Boys and Girls Club in downtown Battle Creek. The Leadership Challenge class is creating a schedule of events during the summer, and will highlight the incredible opportunities and resources that are available right here in Battle Creek, such as the Air National Guard. These opportunities will be available for up to 350 club members (students) ranging in age from 6-18 years old. If you would like to participate in future summer events, please contact Col. Eric Ely or Senior Master Sgt. Broc Richardson.

This year's "kick-off" event was a huge success! Events like this cannot be successful without support from leadership and volunteers. Special thanks to the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce, Wing leadership, Senior Master Sgt. Rolando Garza, Tech. Sgt. John Wilson, Mr. Chris Kronenwetter and Mr. Mike Lowery for their involvement and support. ■

## EVERY AIRMAN COUNTS

Fellow Airmen,

I need your help in fixing a problem that directly relates to our overall readiness - sexual assault. This is a problem each and every one of you has a part in solving. As Airmen in the world's greatest Air Force, treating each other with dignity and respect is absolutely essential. Our mission effectiveness is built on trust and nothing can be allowed to violate that trust.

We are launching the "Every Airman Counts" campaign in an effort to hear more from you on how best to address the issue of sexual assault prevention and response within our organization. The first initiative beginning today is a public facing blog where Airmen can post suggestions, ideas, or concerns, and senior leaders and subject matter experts can join the dialogue. In addition to the blog, later this month, we will host senior leader web chats that will be moderated forums for real-time information exchange between our Airmen and experts in this field.

Sexual assault is an issue that affects us all. It's important for us to know exactly where and what the issues are so that we can address them with undivided focus. I need every one of you to share your thoughts on how we can best ensure that we have an environment where dignity and respect are prevailing qualities in our daily relationships.

There's no doubt that with your help, we can make our Air Force family stronger and eliminate sexual assault from our service. For more details on this campaign, I invite you to log onto the Air Force Portal today.

LARRY O. SPENCER

General, USAF

Vice Chief of Staff

## ONLINE LINKS

PROMOTIONS

DFAC MENU

FAMILY PROGRAMS

\*ROTATIONAL USE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

RETENTION OFFICE UPDATES

UTA TRAINING SCHEDULE

\*HIRING OF HEROES EVENTS